

A Brief History of Stockheath



Funfair and fireworks on Stockheath Common, 5 November 2010.

John Pile, Steve Jones, Ralph Cousins

Havant History Booklet No. 2

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Aerial view of the Stockheath area circa 2008.

Stockheath

The area of Stockheath historically centred on the common that bore its name. Originally the triangular shaped common was used by local cottagers to graze their animals on the eight acres of common land. During the ownership of Sir George Staunton larger smallholdings were starting to appear with tenants renting further land from the Leigh Park Estate that bordered onto the common and using their customary rights of grazing on the common itself. Some cottagers renting just an acre or two of land close to the common.

Stockheath also saw the rise of larger properties around the common, with small villas beginning to appear on the western side of the common. Advertisements from the local press from the early 1800s advertised properties for sale or let as the following shows:

STOCKHEATH BANQUETTING HOUSE

TO be SOLD by AUCTION, by Mr. Weller, on Monday,
Twelve O'clock on the premises,

A substantial newly built BANQUETTING HOUSE, with one very handsome proportioned room, cellar, and bed chamber, well calculated to form into cottage ornee, with garden, poultry yard, orchard and meadow land, the whole comprising about two acres, situate at Stockheath, late the property of Tudor Griffiths, Esq.

Hampshire Telegraph, 5 September, 1808

To be SOLD or LET with early possession — A genteel COPYHOLD COTTAGE, replete with Fixtures, pleasantly situated on Stockheath Green; containing two parlours, three bed-rooms, kitchen and pantry, a detached washhouse, with copper and oven; - Also a Yard, Stable, and Outhouse, together with a large and productive Garden, well stocked with good young Fruit Trees in full bearing, and having the customary right of Havant Thicket and Stockheath Common.

Hampshire Telegraph, 17 May, 1824

STOCKHEATH, HAVANT, HANTS.

To be LET, with immediate possession, TWO neat VILLA RESIDENCES situate on the Green, containing large drawing and dining rooms, four good bedrooms and dressing ditto, kitchen, wash and brew houses, gardens and orchards, with a right to turn out over 16 acres of pasture adjoining.

Hampshire Telegraph, 25 June, 1859

By the time of the sale of the Leigh Park Estate in 1860, following the death of Sir George Staunton the previous year, the sales particulars of the estate record various properties.

In 1864, 887 acres of common land around Havant was enclosed. Stockheath measuring at this time 8.4 acres and the Award dated 1870. Other areas enclosed included Leigh Green and Havant Thicket that had an effect on the Leigh Park Estate. William Henry Stone, then the owner of Leigh Park was allocated 727 acres due to the enclosure of part of his estate.

At a constituency meeting in Portsmouth (reported in *Hampshire Telegraph* 1st July 1865) prior to the July 1865 General Election, Stone, who was standing as Liberal candidate in the Portsmouth constituency, rebuffed the charge of hypocrisy over the matter of the enclosure by saying:

When a man came forward and professed to support certain principles, and said he intended to support measures which should be for the benefit of all classes, if it could be shown that in his private capacity, in the disposition of his own property and in his dealing with his neighbours, he was acting contrary to those principles, and in a spirit of harshness and oppression – (hear, hear) then those to whom he appealed for support, would be justified before they gave their votes – (hear, hear)

Stone told the meeting that the movement for enclosure:

Had been initiated a townsman of their own, Mr. Taplin; and although the alteration was to his advantage, it was no more so than to the rest of the copyholders, except because he was a larger holder.

After the enclosure, and after William Stone had left Leigh Park in 1874, larger farms or smallholdings started to appear around the common at Stockheath, under the ownership of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram.

STOCKHEATH COMMON

The question of the origin of commons and rights of commons are impossible to answer with certainty as they surely predate parliament, and even the monarchy. The assertion that they date from the times that when land was mainly wild and ownerless and all men had equal rights over it is illogical since if the land was free there would be no need for 'rights' over it. It is more likely that 'commons' and 'rights' to use them date from the Middle Ages when 'rights' were 'appendant' (attached) to the land held of the lord of the manor by copyhold or freehold tenure and they came in to being because someone had assumed ownership and control over it. There were sound economic reasons why the rights were granted. There was an obligation of the part of the manorial tenant to leave his holding (when he surrendered it) in as good condition as he received it and his rights of common helped him to do this and to pay his dues to the lord.

The manorial system of the Normans acknowledged lordship over the land, but the peasantry kept their customary rights. The Commons Act of 1285, also known as the Second Statute of Westminster, confirmed landowners' right to 'approve' common land – that is, to fence off surplus common land beyond that which was required to meet the commoners' needs for survival and convert it to more profitable agricultural use. This was a frequent source of conflict between landowners and commoners until the practice of 'improvement' was finally regulated under the Law of Commons Act of 1893. It has now been abolished. By the mid-19th century many common rights had been eradicated by enclosures but some have survived until the present day.

John Pile has carried out considerable research into this area (Read also his history entitled 'Romano-British and Saxon Commons.') and he puts forward the following conjectural history of Stockheath:

Both of the 10th century charters defining the Saxon estate of Havant (S 430 dated AD 935 and S 837 dated AD 980) refer 'to thon hwitan stoccae' at a location that may be identified with the present Stockheath. Susan Kelly



Fireworks on Stockheath Common, 5 November 2013.

(pers. comm.) translates this as 'to the white tree-stump or post' and it is likely that this is the origin of the present name. Professor Coates (in a personal communication) agrees that Old English *stocc* 'a tree trunk or stump' is more likely than OE *stoc* 'a place', especially 'a secondary settlement', to be the etymon (root) of the place name Stockheath. From this point, progressing northward, the boundary of the estate passes 'through the wood enclosure to Nedda's wood or clearing to the highway'. The highway could well be Riders Lane which follows the old parish boundary between Bedhampton and Havant. The 'wood enclosure' may refer to an enclosure for deer and it is significant that the later Bedhampton deer park lay immediately to the west. The deer park was probably created from the Forest of Bere after the Norman Conquest, but it too may have had a Saxon counterpart.

Stockheath is funnel-shaped and it is clearly an exit from an area of former common wood-pasture to the north. Cattle would have been driven into the funnel at the junction of Riders Lane and Stockheath Lane and then down Stockheath Lane to be grazed on the coastal pasture grounds. The possibility that this may have once been a hedged or fenced game enclosure would not have precluded its use as common grazing land. There was another exit-funnel at Leigh Green around the present junction of Prospect Lane and Bartons Road. The present line of Stockheath Lane from Stockheath, Stockheath Road, Martins Road and Bartons Road as far as the junction with Eastleigh Road (where there was a third exit-funnel) probably marks the southern edge of a large block of former wood-pasture/game enclosure, which was not opened up until the 13th century. This area was probably secondary woodland, which regenerated after having been cleared in Roman times.

Inclosure Acts

The Inclosure Acts were a series of United Kingdom Acts of Parliament which enclosed open fields and common land in the country. This meant that the 'Rights of Common' that people once held on these areas were denied. Acts for small areas had been passed sporadically since the 12th century but the majority were passed between 1750 and 1860. In 1845 a general Inclosure Act was passed which allowed for the appointment of Inclosure

Commissioners who could enclose land without submitting a request to Parliament.

According to Chapman & Seeliger in their book, *A Guide to Enclosure in Hampshire 1700–1900*, 1997, an order was made in 1864 for the enclosure of 891.40 acres of common land in the parishes of Havant and North Hayling. Under this order 886 acres of enclosed common land were shared among 35 allottees as ‘awards’ of which Sir William Stone received 727 acres (82% of the total). It is important to note that various commoners received a share of the land in proportion to their forfeited rights over it. However Stockheath Common, which was included within the ‘award’ made to Stone, came with the following condition from the commissioner:

And I declare that with the approbation of the Inclosure Commissioners for England and Wales I have set out and do hereby set out allot and award to William Henry Stone of Leigh Park Havant, Esquire who has consented to receive the same as part of his allotment. All that piece or parcel of Land numbered 66 in the parish of Havant on the said Map containing Eight acres subject to the obligation of preserving the surface thereof in good condition and of permitting the same to be at all times used for Exercise and Recreation by the Inhabitants of the said parish and Neighbourhood And I direct that fences of the Southeast and Southwest sides of such allotment shall from time to time be repaired and maintained by and at the expense of the owner thereof for the time being.

This provision, which remains to this day, was no doubt made in recognition that Stockheath Common was already being used for recreational purposes, in particular as Havant’s cricket ground. Hence the former Cricketers public house. Ownership of the common passed to and remains with Portsmouth City Council when they bought the estate apart from a strip along the Riders Lane frontage and a small triangle in the north-west corner that belongs to Havant Borough Council.

However Section 1 (1) of the Commons Act, 1899 provides for a local authority to apply for a scheme to manage a common in its area where the use for exercise and recreation is the prime consideration and where the owner does not require a direct voice in its management.

As this provision could clearly be applied to Stockheath Common, a scheme for its management was made by the former Urban District Council of Havant & Waterloo to which the council's seal was affixed on 31st October, 1950 and approved by Order of the Minister of Agriculture on 10th November, 1950. Following this approval the council drew up a set of Byelaws for the management of the common.

Some Examples of Rights of Common.

These rights were not necessarily universal on all commons as each manor had its own customs, some of which are as follows:

- Common of Pasture, the right to pasture cattle, horse, sheep or other animals on the common land. This was the most widespread right.
- Common of Piscary, the right to take fish from ponds or streams, although not necessarily connected with common land.
- Common of Turbary, the right to dig or cut turf or peat, usually as fuel in the commoner's house.
- Common in Soil, the right to take sand, gravel, stone, minerals etc, for use on the commoner's holding, but not for sale.
- Common of Mast or Pannage, the right to turn out pigs for a period in the autumn to eat mast. (The fruit of beech, oak, chestnut and other forest trees).
- Common of Estovers, e.g.

Ploughbote, the right to take timber to repair ploughs, carts and other farm equipment.

Hedgebote, the right to take timber to repair hedges and gates etc.

Housebote, the right to take timber to repair a house.

Firebote, the right to take toppings and clippings for fuel.

No doubt the Right of Mast would have been exercised in Havant Thicket and the Right of Pasture on Stockheath Common. The Right of Estover was strictly controlled. It was not a case of just wandering down to the woods with an axe. Firstly, the need for the timber had to be established by the homage at the manorial court and the amount of timber had to be established and the amount of timber required estimated. In the manor of Havant (admittedly at a late date in its manorial history) the detailed arrangements

may be gleaned from the court rolls. According to Longcroft, who had both a professional and an historian's interest in the subject, there was a wood-yard on the west side of Leigh Road where timber was stored for parish and manorial use. The tenant, allocated a supply of timber to repair his house, was required to go there, pay the sawyer to convert his timber as required and remove it at his own expense.

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF HAVANT AND WATERLOO

BYELAWS made by

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HAVANT AND WATERLOO

In pursuance of a Scheme made by the Council and approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries under Section 1 (1) of The Commons Act, 1899 with respect to Stockheath Common in the Parish of Havant in the Urban District of Havant and Waterloo in the County of Southampton.

B. R. W. GOFTON *Clerk of the Council*

TOWN HALL, HAVANT

1. Throughout these Byelaws the expression "the Council" means the Urban District Council of Havant and Waterloo and the expression "the Common" means the piece of land with the ponds, streams, paths and roads thereon, commonly known as "Stockheath Common," situate in the Urban District of Havant and Waterloo in the County of Southampton and referred to as "the Common" in the Scheme under The Commons Act, 1899, made by the Urban District Council of Havant and Waterloo on the thirty-first day of October, 1950, and approved by order of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on the Tenth day of November, 1950, and the expression "the Scheme" means the aforesaid Scheme.
2. An act necessary to the proper execution of his duty on the Common by an Officer of the Council, or by any person or servant of any person employed by the Council shall not be deemed an offence against these Byelaws.
3. A person shall not, without lawful authority, place or deposit and leave on the Common, any road sand, materials for repair of roads or any wood so as to create or tend to create a litter.

4. A person shall not without lawful authority dig, cut or take turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay or other substance on or from the Common, or cut fell or injure any gorse, heather, timber or other tree, shrub, brushwood or other plant growing on the Common.

5. A person, who, in the exercise of any right of common or other right over the Common shall dig or take turf, sods, gravel, sand, clay, or other substance or shall cut, fell or take trees or underwood shall not

(i). Commit any unnecessary damage to the Common or the turf, trees, shrubs, brushwood, gorse, heather, ferns, or other natural products thereon;

(ii). do so on any part of the Common which is enclosed temporarily for the revival of turf, trees, shrubs, or plants or set apart for games or the parking of motor or other vehicles if similar substances as aforesaid can conveniently be dug or taken, or cut, felled, or taken from some other part of the Common.

6. A person shall not carelessly or negligently injure, deface or remove any seat, shelter, pavilion, drinking fountain, fence, rubbish receptacle or any works erected or maintained by the Council on the Common.

7. A person shall not without lawful authority catch birds, set traps or nets, or lay snares for birds or other animals, or take birds' eggs or nests, or shoot or chase game or other animals on the Common.

8. A person shall not without lawful authority draw upon the Common any carriage, truck, cart, caravan, or other vehicle.

Provided that the foregoing Byelaw shall not be deemed to prohibit the drawing on the Common of a wheeled chair drawn or propelled by hand, or a perambulator or a chaise drawn or propelled by hand, and used solely for the conveyance of a child or children, or an invalid.

9. A person shall not without the consent of the Council or other lawful authority erect, or permit to remain on the Common, any building, shed, tent, fence, post, railing or other structure.

10. A person shall not (except in the case of a fair lawfully held) place on the Common any show, exhibition, swing, roundabout or other like thing.

11. A person shall not without lawful authority, fire or discharge firearms on the Common.
12. Where the Council set apart any such part of the Common as may be fixed by the Council, and described in a notice board affixed or set up in some conspicuous position on the Common for the purpose of any game specified in the notice board which, by reason of the rules or manner of playing, or for the prevention of damage, danger, or discomfort to any person on the Common may necessitate, at any time during the continuance of the game, the exclusive use by the player or players of any space in such part of the Common – a person shall not in any space elsewhere on the Common play or take part in any game so specified in such a manner as to exclude persons not playing or taking part in the game from the use of such space.
13. A person shall not
 - (i) without lawful authority break in any horse on the Common;
 - (ii) to the danger of any other person drive or exercise any horse on the Common.
14. A person shall not without lawful authority turn out to graze or permit to graze on the Common any cattle, sheep or other animals.
15. A person shall not wilfully, carelessly or negligently soil or defile any part of any wall or fence or any part of any building, barrier or railing, or of any seat or of any monument, work of art, ornament or decoration or of any other structure or erection on the Common.
16. A person shall not on any part of the Common wilfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt or annoy any person in the proper use of the Common.
17. A person shall not hinder or obstruct any Officer of the Council in the exercise of his powers or duties under the Scheme or under any of the foregoing Byelaws.
18. Every person who shall offend against any of the foregoing Byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Two Pounds.
19. It shall be lawful for any Officer of the Council after due warning has been given, to remove from the Common any vehicle or animal drawn, driven or placed, or any structure erected or placed thereon, in contravention of any

of the foregoing Byelaws, or to exclude from the Common any person who within his view commits or whom he reasonably suspects of committing an offence against any such Byelaws or against the Vagrancy Acts.

20. Provided that the foregoing Byelaws shall not be deemed to apply in any case where an offence is committed against the provisions of the Malicious Damage Act, 1861, section 14 of the Criminal Justice Administration Act, 1914, section 193 of the Law of Property Act, 1925, or against any limitation or condition imposed by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries under that Section, or the Wild Birds Protection Acts, 1880 – 1939 or any Order made thereunder.

Adopted under the Seal and at a Meeting of the Urban District Council of Havant and Waterloo held on the Twenty-Seventh day of February, 1951.

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HAVANT AND WATERLOO

was hereunto affixed this Twenty-Seventh day of February, 1951 in the presence of

G. V. A. PHELIPS, Chairman of the Council.

B. R. W. GOFTON, Clerk of the Council.

Seal of Secretary of State Home Department.

I hereby confirm the foregoing byelaws and fix the date they are to come in to operation as 1st June 1951.

J SHUTER EDE

One of His Majesty's Principal secretaries of State

WHITEHALL 9th April 1951

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF HAVANT AND WATERLOO

BYELAWS made by

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HAVANT AND WATERLOO

in pursuance of a Scheme made by the Council and approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries under Section 1 (1) of The Commons Act, 1899

with respect to Stockheath Common in the Parish of Havant in the Urban District of Havant and Waterloo in the County of Southampton.

B. R. W. GOFTON *Clerk of the Council*

BYELAWS

made by The Urban District Council of Havant and Waterloo in pursuance of a Scheme made by the Council and approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries under Section 1 (1) of The Commons Act, 1899, with respect to

STOCKHEATH COMMON

In the Parish of Havant in the Urban District of Havant and Waterloo in the County of Southampton.

1. The following Byelaws shall be read and construed as Byelaws of the series of Byelaws for the regulation of Stockheath Common made by the Council on the 27th day of February, 1951.
2. A person shall not fly any power-driven aircraft on the Common.
3. In these Byelaws the expression "power-driven model aircraft" means any model aircraft driven by the combustion of petrol-vapour or other combustible substances.

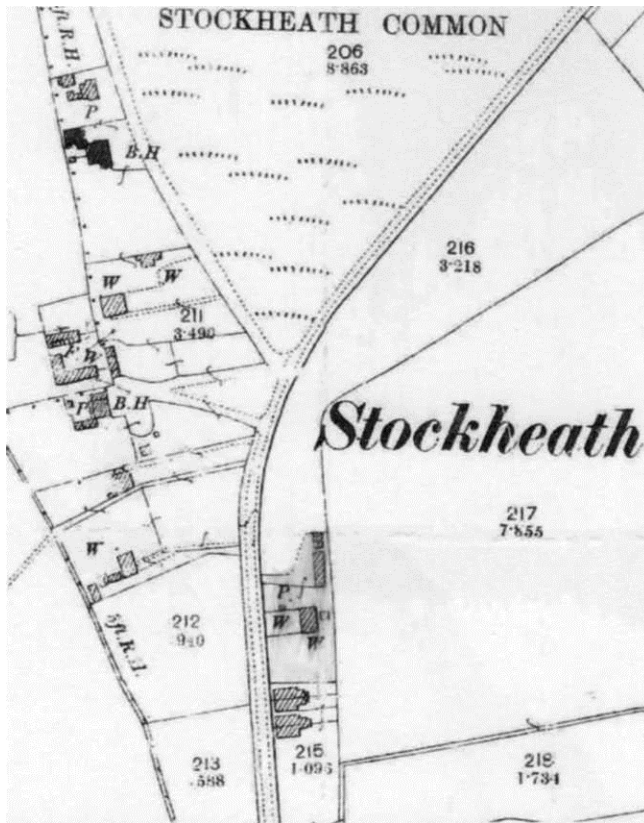
Adopted under the Seal and at a Meeting of the Urban district Council of Havant and Waterloo held on the Twenty-fourth day of June, 1952.

THE COMMON SEAL OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HAVANT AND WATERLOO was hereunto affixed this Twenty-fourth day of June, 1952 in the presence of

J.R. CUNDALL Chairman

B.R.W. GOFTON Clerk of the Council

STOCKHEATH FARM



O.S. Map 2nd Edition 1897 showing Stockheath Farm on Stockheath Lane. Primrose Cottages and Clematis Cottages, built 1886, can be seen close to the farm.

Standing on the eastern side of Stockheath Lane and close to Riders Lane and Stockheath Common this small dairy farm was originally, as recorded on the 1842 Tithe Map and Award, a cottage and garden under the ownership of Sir George Staunton and under the occupation of James Bughurst (Lot 307) with the nearby common at Stockheath providing extra grazing for the livestock. The farm was one of many smallholdings and cottages clustered around the common, all relying, to some extent, on the customary right of common for their existence.

The farm appeared to come into its own right under Sir Frederick Fitzwygram and on 1st April 1882 an advertisement appeared in the Hampshire Telegraph giving a good description of what the farm was all about at this time:

Messrs. WYATT & SON have received instructions to SELL by AUCTION (without reserve), on Thursday, the 13th of April, 1882, at One o'clock precisely, on the premises at Stockheath Farm, from Mr. Edmund Good, in consequence of the great inconvenience he has been put to in carrying out his milk contract,

TWENTY WELL BRED MILCH COWS, WITH CALVES DOWN, CALVING AND IN FULL PROFIT, Two sows with pigs, eight sows in pig, four fat sows, 18 strong shuts, young Berkshire boar, six useful horses and ponies, pony carts and harness, dairy utensils, seven large railway milk churns, and about five and a half tons of prime meadow ha

Hampshire Telegraph, February 1883

CATTLE DISEASE A FURTHER OUTBREAK OF SWINE FEVER HAS OCCURRED ON Mr. Good's farm at Stockheath, Havant, and one diseased pig and six others which had been in contact with it have been destroyed.

STOCKHEATH, NEAR HAVANT TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, by Mr.
J. WINDSOR.

On Monday the 25th day of August, at the Bear Inn, Havant, between the hours of six and seven o'clock in the evening, in two Lots.

Lot 1. Desirable COPYHOLD ESTATE of INHERITANCE situated at Stockheath: comprising a Cottage, Garden, Orchard, and Plat; Stable, Cow-house, Piggery, and many other conveniences, occupied by Mr. Hobbs; through which Plat runs a constant small stream, suitable for business where water is required.

Lot 2. A Close of good MEADOW LAND, containing about six acres, situated at Stockheath, aforesaid, occupied by the Proprietor.

The Estate is entitled to a valuable Right of Common, and immediate possession will be given. Lot 1 is held under the Manor of Havant, at a small fine and quit rent, and Lot 2 under the same Manor, for three good Lives Stockheath is a very healthy pleasant situation, about half a mile

from Havant, very near the Turnpike, and across which a road has been lately made to Rowlands Castle.

Hampshire Telegraph, 18 August, 1806

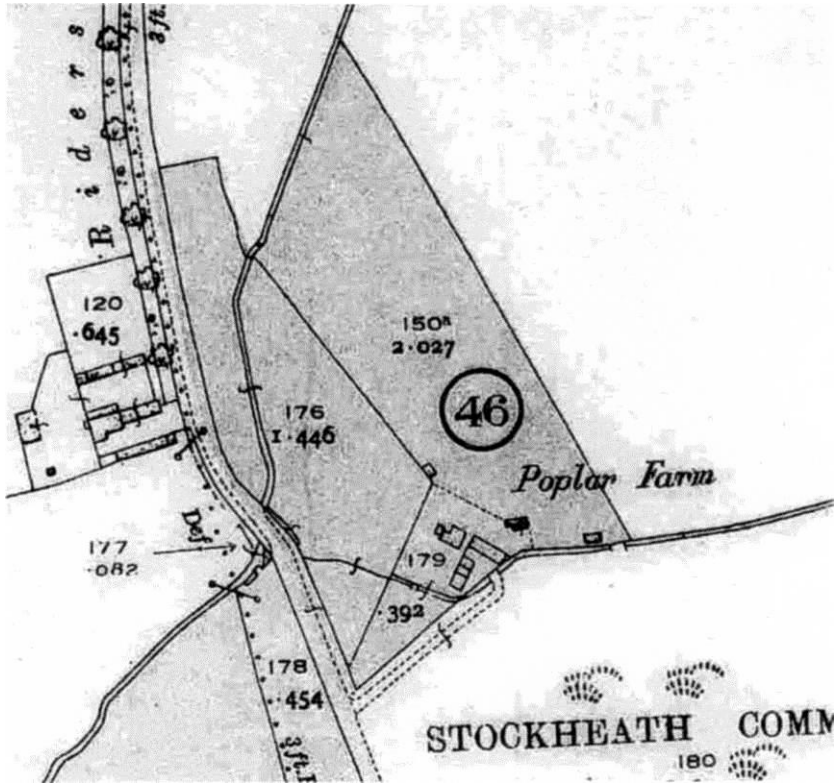
By 1936 the smallholding extended to 32 acres and was described as:

Stockheath Farm, Stockheath

A Capital Small Holding 32a. 0r. 36p. with extensive frontages on Stockheath Road and Lane forming capital building sites for the erection of good class house property overlooking Stockheath Common. The Attractive Farm House Of brick and tile contains four bedrooms, box room, two sitting rooms, kitchen with range, scullery fitted sink, larder, brick and tiled wash-house and E. C. Dairy The outbuildings comprise: Brick and tiled cow shed with 11 stalls, a range of three brick and tiled piggeries, open cart shed, pen, meal room. Let to Mr. HE. Green on a yearly Michaelmas Tenancy with other land at a total rent of £130 per annum.

During the building of the new Leigh Park Housing Estate the farmhouse was used as a Sunday School under the Lake Road (Portsmouth) Baptist Church and was later demolished and the land used for the new housing in the Soberton Road and Blendworth Crescent areas of Leigh Park.

POPLAR FARM, STOCKHEATH



Poplar Farm (Lot 46), 1936 Leigh Park Sales Catalogue To the left of Poplar Farm, on Riders Lane, can be seen the buildings of a small unnamed Dairy Holding.

Originally a cottage and garden on the north-west angle of Stockheath Common at one time under the ownership of Sir George Staunton. The 1842 Tithe Award records Henry Carter renting a cottage and garden and extra garden strip from the Leigh Park Estate at this time.

The origin of the cottage predates Sir George Staunton's tenure at Leigh Park by some years and was originally a copyhold cottage under the manor of Havant and was described in 1802 as a '*messuage and other buildings with 95ft. of land under the tenure of Michael Critchett at the northwest angle of Stockheath Common.*' Critchett had acquired the tenancy from John Randell



Watercolour of Poplar Farm, Stockheath, by E. Pullen, 1901.



Poplar Farmhouse standing derelict on the corner of Stockheath Common, 1956. The new flats on Purbrook Way can be seen behind.

and duly surrendered the property to William Garrett on the 25th January 1802 who added it to his ever growing Leigh Estate. At the surrender to William Garrett it was described as:

All that piece or parcel of grounds containing in length from north to south 95 feet of assize and in breadth from east to west at the north and south ends thereof 82 feet of assize together with the messes or tenements and other buildings therein lately erected lying in the south and part or parcel of All that piece or parcel of waste land lying and being at the north end of a common called Stockheath within the said manor containing 80 rods bounded with the said Common on the East, South and West parts and with the demesne lands of the said manor called Billy on the north.
(Abstract of Title to the Leigh Estate. HRO 102M86/273)

At the time of the sale of the Leigh Park in October 1860 it was described as a 'Cottage, containing three bedrooms, kitchen, sitting room, wash-house, pantry, piggery and garden' under the tenure of George Thomas Cousins (Cozens) at an annual rent of £7 10s. No doubt Cousins was using his rights to graze animals on the common.

By 1874 the smallholding amounted to 11 acres with the right of feed over Stockheath Common and under the tenure of George Cozens and was described as:

COTTAGE WITH GARDEN Situate at STOCKHEATH And an Enclosure of Pasture Land Lying near thereto, together with the RIGHT OF FEED OVER STOCKHEATH Comprising in all about 11a. 0r. 32p. In Havant Parish

<i>No. on Plan.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Cultivation</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
<i>Pt. 115</i>	<i>Stockheath Field</i>	<i>Pasture</i>	<i>3a. 0r. 0p.</i>
<i>Pt. 117</i>	<i>Cottage & Garden</i>		<i>0a. 0r. 32p.</i>

LXVI (Inclosure Map) Right of Feed over Stockheath 8a. 0r. 0p.

Total 11a. 0r. 32p.

Let to Mr. George Cozens, on a yearly Tenancy from Michaelmas, at Rents amounting to £13 10s per annum.

Note.- Stockheath (LXVI) was allotted to the Vendor under the Havant Inclosure Act for Feed only, and is sold subject to an obligation on the

owner to maintain the surface in good condition, and to a right of recreation, reserved to the Inhabitants of the parish of Havant and the neighbourhood, under the said Inclosure, and to any other right to or interest therein which they may claim or possess.

In the sale of the outlying portions of the Leigh Park Estate in 1936 the sales particulars of the farm record:

The Farmhouse and Buildings Known as POPLAR FARM Stockheath Common, Stockheath Together with about 4a. 0r. 8p. of Excellent Grazing and Arable Land The Brick, flint and tiled farmhouse contains: three bedrooms, sitting room, slip room, kitchen, E.C. Water laid on.

The Buildings adjoining comprise cow pen with 10 milking stalls, cooling room, two-stall cow house and three pigsties Let to Messrs C. and C. A. Hotson on a yearly Michaelmas Tenancy, with other land. The rent apportioned to this Lot being £23 per annum

STOCKHEATH VILLA FARM

The farmhouse, also known as Heath Villa, stood on Riders Lane opposite the expanse of Stockheath Common near to the former Cricketers Public House and can be traced back to the small settlement facing the common that is recorded on the Havant Tithe map of 1842. The map records around half a dozen properties fronting onto the common at Riders Lane/Stockheath Lane. At this period the property was under the occupancy and ownership of William Matthews Jnr., a brewer of Havant, and it was described as a 'house and garden' (plot no. 302). It is quite possibly one of the properties that were advertised to be let on the 25th June 1859 in the *Hampshire Telegraph*:

STOCKHEATH, HAVANT, HANTS. To be Let, with immediate possession, two neat VILLA RESIDENCES situate on the Green, containing large drawing and dining rooms, four good bedrooms and dressing rooms, kitchen, wash and brew houses, gardens and orchards, with a right of to turn out over 16 acres of pasture adjoining.

Hampshire Telegraph, 25 June, 1859

Prior to the Tithe Award in 1842 William Matthews Jnr put up for auction on the 25th of November, 1832:

Four capital Inclosures of Pasture Land, presenting a favourable opportunity for an advantageous investment, containing together 40 acres customary measure situate at Stockheath in the parish of Bedhampton, in the occupation of William Matthews Jnr. at a moderate rent of £60 per annum, for a lease of seven years, dated Michaelmas, 1832, but which lease may be annulled in case of sale if required.

It is unclear when the property came under the ownership of the Leigh Park Estate but certainly by the time of sale of the estate in 1874 it was not included in the sale particulars and must have been added to the Leigh Park Estate under the ownership of the Fitzwygram family. By 1891 the census for that year records Thomas Taylor at Heath Villa with Taylor being recorded as a farmer. The following census in 1901 Henry Bone is recorded at Heath Villa as a farmer and resided there for over the next twenty years. By 1936, at the time of the sale of the outlying portions of the Leigh Park Estate the farm was described as:

Part of STOCKHEATH VILLA FARM STOCKHEATH On Riders Lane and adjacent to Stockheath Common comprising about 28a. 2r. 9p. Excellent Pasture Land With a charming dwelling House Known as HEATH VILLA.

Standing well back from the road, in a pleasant position facing the common. It is of brick construction with slated roof and contains: Three Bed Rooms, Bath Room with lavatory basin, W.C., Two Sitting Rooms, Dining Room, Kitchen with " Glow Worm" boiler for hot water system, sink, Larder etc., Brick and Tiled Garage, Two Stall Stable, Store Room and E.C. Attractive Garden and Orchard.

The Block of well arranged Farm Buildings Comprise a Range of Timber and Tiled Buildings of Calf Pen, Pigsty, Cow Shed for 5, Open Cart Shed and Implement Shed, Range of five Pigsties.

In the Parishes of Bedhampton and North Havant Let to Messrs C. & C.A. Hotson on a yearly Michaelmas Tenancy, with other land not included in the sale, at a total rent of £71 per annum. Part of the farmland is also let to Mr. H. Green and Messrs H. & J. Lucas.

Heath Villa was demolished to make way for the houses in Sunnyheath, opposite Stockheath Common in the early 1960s.

RIDERS LANE FARM

Riders Lane Farm had its origins from a cottage that is recorded on the 1842 Tithe Award under the ownership of Sir George Staunton as 'Cottage and Garden' with just over one acre of arable land called Riders Lane Piece under the occupation of Samuel Silvester (157&158). The tithe map certainly records two properties on the site. The cottage was situated just south of Billy's Copse on the road from Stockheath towards Havant Thicket. By the time of the sale of the Leigh Park Estate in 1860 it is described as a House, Cottage and Garden of just over two acres under the occupation of Charles Gates, John Jacobs and William Kerley. It is possibly the building painted by Rowlands Castle artist Charles Rogers Cotton in around 1861 which shows a cottage situated on the road leading to Havant Thicket from Stockheath Common. The painting shows an old property which pre-dates the time of its painting by at least 100 years or more (there were two properties recorded on Riders Lane between Stockheath Common and Billy's Copse).

By the time of the sale of the Leigh Park Estate in 1874 it is described in the sales particulars as: 'Cottage and Garden, Riders Lane and House and Garden, Riders Lane under the occupation of Messrs Windebank and E. Smith with garden and pasture land of two acres.'

It would appear that the farm in its own right came into being under Sir Frederick Fitzwygram and the 1936 Sales Catalogue for that year carries a conveyance date for the farm of the 6 April 1877. The later farmhouse, which appeared to be two cottages, was of a brick and tiled construction, in keeping with the style of building built by both William Stone and Sir Frederick Fitzwygram around the Leigh Park Estate.

The later farm was a small holding of 39 acres and is believed to have concentrated on pig rearing and was described in the Sales Catalogue of 1936 as:

A Small Holding Known as RIDERS LANE FARM Lying on the Western side of Riders Lane, just north of Stockheath Common and comprising about 39a. 1r. 26p. of Pasture and Arable Land The old fashioned Brick and Tiled House contains: Four Bed Rooms,

Sitting and Dining Rooms, Kitchen, Pantry and Dairy. E.C. Adjoining is a Range of Brick and Tiled Buildings comprising: Store Room and Loose Box, Four Pigsties, Two-stall Stable and Cow House, Corrugated-iron Open-fronted Shed In the Parishes of Bedhampton and North Havant Let to Mr. W. Hodgson on a Yearly Michaelmas Tenancy, with other land, at a total Rent of £50 per annum.



Angela Hodgson, the granddaughter of the tenant farmer William Hodgson, takes a ride on one of his pigs circa 1940.

Like a large number of the farms that made up the Leigh Park Estate the farm was given up for development of the Leigh Park Housing Estate. The last tenant, Reginald Bennett, received the following notice to quit:

Mr. Reginald Thomas Bennett
Riders Lane Farm
Bedhampton
Havant,

LEIGH PARK ESTATE

We hereby give you notice to quit and deliver up possession of the messuage lands and premises bearing the following Ordnance Survey Numbers 116b, 146, 147, 108, part 110. 110a, 114 situate in the Parishes of North Havant and Bedhampton in the County of Southampton which you hold of the Portsmouth Corporation as tenant on the Twenty ninth day of September One thousand nine hundred and forty seven or at or upon such other time or date as your tenancy shall expire after delivery to you of this notice.

Dated this twenty third day of September One thousand nine hundred and forty six.

WICKHAM. Hants.

Agents for the Portsmouth Corporation.

This notice is given to you for the reason that your Landlords intend to develop the land either for the building of houses, making of roads or for other purposes connected with building development.

The farm made way for housing development in Dunsbury Way, close to the former factory site which has since been developed as a small housing estate under the name of Little Hacketts, the name formerly associated with a kitchen garden within Great Copse, part of the Leigh Park Estate.

DAIRY HOLDING – RIDERS LANE/STOCKHEATH COMMON

This dairy farm situated on the western part of Riders Lane, close to Stockheath Common, was advertised as a 'Capital Dairy Holding of 63 acres' in the sale of the Leigh Park Estate in 1936 would appear had its origins in the manor of Bedhampton. At the time of the sale of the Leigh Park Estate in 1874 the holding was not part of the sale of the estate and belonged to land owned by Lord Sherborne, then lord of the manor of Bedhampton. The first edition O.S. map (25") of 1873 records a building on the site at this stage.

Certainly by 1897 (second edition) a series of agricultural buildings are in place indicating that by this date it was being used as farm.

At some stage the site became part of the Leigh Park Estate, probably under the ownership of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram. It is clear that no dwelling was situated at the site and by 1936 at the sale of the outlying portions of the Leigh Park Estate it was described as:

A CAPITAL DAIRY HOLDING Lying on the western side of Riders Lane and just north of Stockheath Common and covering about 65a. 3r. 2p. Together with A Compact Range of Farm Buildings Comprising Two Cow Pens with 28 milking stalls, Two Stall Stable, Root Store, Calf and Bull Shed, Store with Copper, Open Cart Shed, Milk Cooling Room. With Pasture land in both Bedhampton and North Havant parishes.

Let to Mr. Messrs H. & J. Lucas (Leigh Park Farm) on a yearly Michaelmas Tenancy, with other land. The rent apportioned to this lot being £137 per annum.

The farm buildings disappeared under the construction of housing at the junction of Riders Lane and Purbrook Way.

STOCKHEATH'S LOST INNS AND BEERHOUSES

Before the development of the Leigh Estate, firstly under William Garrett and later Sir George Staunton, Leigh was a tything within the parish of Havant and was made up of scattered settlements, with most tracing their history back centuries. Within this large area, stretching from Stockheath to the boundary of what is now Durrants and Rowlands Castle, various inns or beerhouses have been mentioned over the years but now not one survives as a public house. In 1859 two beerhouses are recorded at Stockheath or Leigh Common, but soon after this only one is recorded.

THE CRICKETER'S TAVERN

Formerly known as the Cricketer's Arms it closed its doors for the last time in December 2006 after serving the modern Leigh Park estate for many years, The building much changed with the addition of modern extensions still retains the building built in the early 1860s though it is reputed that there was an earlier inn or beerhouse from around 1750. No doubt, through its long history, it served the thirsty players from Havant who played cricket on

the common and the many visitors who were passing through on their way to Havant and beyond. Local directories record various innkeepers at Stockheath from 1841 but it is not until the 1860s that we get a clearer picture of the Cricketers Tavern.

In September 1864, the occupier Thomas Tribe applied for a licence for the house but was refused, due to what it appeared William Stone's reluctance of granting a licence due to the forthcoming inclosure of Stockheath. In September 1867 Thomas Tribe put the premises, along with the property adjoining, up for sale by auction. The details at this sale record:

Lot. 1.- A substantial and newly built FREEHOLD HOUSE, With a good garden and orchard attached, containing on the ground floor two good sized sitting rooms, 20 feet by 15, and 12 feet by 15, kitchen and wash house, and five bedrooms on the upper floor, and very pleasantly situate at STOCKHEATH, with fronting towards the open common (which is reserved from inclosure in perpetuity for public amusements), and is now used as a public house, known by the name of "The Cricketers."

Hampshire Telegraph 14 September 1867



The Cricketers after closure.

In the 1871 Census the Cricketers Arms, as it was then called, is in the control of William Pettitt, whose occupation is also that of a carpenter journeyman. Also at Stockheath at this time is Samuel Clark who is recorded as a retired inn keeper. Previous to this Clark was a dairyman at Stockheath for many years and could possibly have also kept a beerhouse at stockheath. On 25 September 1876 the Cricketer's Tavern again applied for a spirit licence but was once again refused although it put up a very good case for a licence as the *Hampshire Telegraph* recorded:

Mr R.W. Ford applied for a spirit licence to be granted to the Cricketers Tavern, Stockheath, occupied Mr. John Edmonds. The house had been a beerhouse for 15 or 16 years, and belonged to Messrs Allan & Son, of Portsmouth. The house consisted of ten rooms – five upstairs and a similar number on the ground floor – two of them being of considerable size, and capable of accommodating 60 or 70 persons. The place was largely frequented in the summer by cricketers, and it was for that class and their friends that the application was principally made. The house in question had cost between £500 and £600, and was almost £25 a year rental.

Hampshire Telegraph 27 September 1876



Hounds in front of the Cricketer's.

Samuel Clark is recorded on the 1851 Census for Stockheath as a fundholder. Also on the census return is Sophia Buckhurst as a visitor at the same address. Sophia was the daughter of Havant Brewer and Maltster John

Buckhurst who died at Stockheath in 1842. Long associated with cricket on the common and also day trippers who ventured out to Stockheath the Cricketer's Tavern also played its part in the local community as on the 10 September, 1892 when:

On Saturday the employees of Mr. C. Phillips, of Leigh Park Farm, and Mr. H. Phillips of Middle Park Farm, celebrated Harvest Home in old fashioned style. The afternoon was devoted to cricket on Stockheath Common, the team from Leigh Park Farm proving victorious. In the evening the usual dinner was held at the Cricketers' Tavern, when Mr. Richards placed an old English spread on the table. The chair was taken by Mr. C. Lee, and the evening was devoted to harmony.

Hampshire Telegraph 17 September 1892

In 1914 the Cricketer's was acquired from Charles Gillett, of the Buckland Brewery, Portsmouth, by George Gale & Co. and stayed with that brewery until its closure. During its varied history it was even the meeting place during the war years of the local hunt, led by officers from the nearby naval camps and during the formative years of the Leigh Park housing estate it was the headquarters of many local organisations. Unfortunately it closed in December 2006 and was demolished in 2011 after serving the modern Leigh Park estate for many years and thus joined the list of local public houses that have closed in the past few years.

THE SAILOR'S HOME

Further along Riders Lane, towards the junction of Stockheath Lane, stood another beerhouse, the Sailor's Home.

This inn's history, along with its neighbour the Cricketers, is rather clouded. It is first mentioned as the Sailor's Home in 1873, under the ownership of Henry Davy of the Prince of Wales Brewery though it probably predates this by some years. In 1859 a directory for Havant records two beer retailers at Stockheath, Thomas Tribe and George Wills, presumably at both the Cricketer's Inn and what became known as the Sailor's Home. By 1880 both the Cricketer's and the Sailor's Home are under the licences of retired Royal Navy pensioners, John Bryant and John Edmunds with Bryant at the Sailor's Home. It is probably this naval connection which gave the beerhouse its name.

Certainly by 1873 the property was under the ownership of Henry Davy of the Prince of Wales Brewery and later by Edward Smith and it probable that after the sale of property due to Smith's bankruptcy in 1876 that the ownership became under the tenure of the Leigh Park Estate and ownership of Sir Frederick Fitzwygram.

THE SAILOR'S HOME STOCKHEATH, HAVANT

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs Lewis and Son, on the Premises, on Monday September 24th, 1877, at two o'clock – The EFFECTS of the above Inn, the property of Mr. Edward Smith, who is leac, comprising nearly new SPRING RAVE, & TWO DUNG CARTS, Harrow, Roller, TWO BOOTHS, 40 & 30 feet long, SHEDS & STABLES (Slated) BUILDING MATERIALS, Eight Cord of Elm Wood, fit for Wheelwrights, TWO ACRES OF TURNIPS Fit to pull, skittle rope, skittles and balls, potatoes, tables, chairs, mugs, glasses, nine dozen cups & saucers, measures, spittoons, guns, copper boilers, spades, prongs, etc., 80 yards of rail fencing, wheelbarrow, corn bin, and numerous effects. May be viewed the morning of sale, and catalogues had on the premises, or at the Auctioneers, Havant.

Hampshire Telegraph 8 January 1876

At the time of its closure, 30th October 1915, the owner was Sir Frederick Loftus Fitzwgram Bt. and the building was being leased to the Gosport brewers, Biden Sea Horse Brewery. Unfortunately nothing of this inn now remains.

THE NEW INN

The New Inn at Leigh played a small part in one of the most notorious murders in the areas history, notably the savage killing of William Galley and Daniel Chater by a gang of fourteen notorious smugglers in 1748. The facts behind the grisly killings are now legendary. It begins with a group of Sussex smugglers raiding the Customs House at Poole to rescue a consignment of tea which they had had confiscated by Revenue Officers after smuggling the tea from Guernsey. In their escape, Daniel Chater, a shoemaker from Fordingbridge, recognised one of the gang and was ordered along with William Galley, a Revenue Officer, to ride to Chichester with a letter for Major Battin, a Justice of the Peace for Sussex with information on one of the

smugglers. After reaching Havant, Galley and Chater were told Major Battin was at East Marden and after being given directions set off for there. Going through Leigh towards Rowlands Castle Chater and Galley stopped off at the New Inn at Leigh where they met two brothers, George and Thomas Austin, who agreed to take them to Rowlands Castle.

After reaching the White Hart at Rowlands Castle, the haunt of various members of the smugglers gang, the unfortunate Galley and Chater were apprehended by the gang members, whipped, beaten and eventually tied to horses and taken away from the inn. The outcome was that both men were cruelly treated and eventually murdered in a most savage way, Galley being buried when not quite dead and Chater thrown down a well and stoned until dead. Seven of the fourteen members of the gang were eventually tried and executed for the murders at Chichester.

The location of the New Inn at Leigh has left historians guessing, three locations are mooted. The first being close to the crossroads at what is now Stockheath and Petersfield Roads; the second close to the settlement near Leigh House; the third being the Robin Hood beerhouse, further along on Durrants Road.

CRICKET ON STOCKHEATH COMMON

In his '*Topographical account of the Hundred of Bosmere*' published in 1857, Charles Longcroft stated that: "*Stockheath contains 17 statute acres, and has from time immemorial been the cricket-ground of the town of Havant.*"

Time immemorial means a time back several hundred years and certainly far longer than living memory but the only written evidence of cricket being played here is the following report in the *Hampshire Telegraph*:

Cricket Match

On Tuesday next the 15th July, a Match of CRICKET will be played on Stockheath, near Havant, between Eleven of Havant and Eleven of Horndean, Blendworth and Catherington, for TWENTY GUINEAS a side, - .
Hampshire Telegraph 14 July 1806



Re-enactment of an old-fashioned cricket match in Havant Park c.1930s.

However if we look at following evidence that has been recorded in other parts of the England regarding the playing of cricket, then it is perhaps not totally unreasonable to come to the conclusion that cricket may have been played on Stockheath Common for some time before this date:

Thought to have been a children's game played in south-east England in Norman and Saxon times on common ground which had been grazed by sheep.

Circa 1550 Match at Guildford

1598 First definitive reference to cricket in Surrey.

1611 Two men prosecuted for playing cricket on a Sunday when they should have been in church.

1696 Freedom of the press granted so cricket matches could be reported.

By far and away the most famous of the early clubs was Hambledon in Hampshire. It started as a parish organisation that first achieved prominence in 1756, The club itself founded in the 1760s was well patronised to the extent that it was the focal point of the game for about 30 years until the formation of the Marylebone Cricket Club on the opening of Lord's Cricket

Ground in 1787. No doubt having formed a club Hambledon would have encouraged nearby populations such as Havant to form teams against which they could play.

The following report in the *Hampshire Telegraph* of 15 August, 1846 indicates that there was a Havant Cricket Club at this time:

Cricket. – A match at cricket was played on Tuesday week, at Hambledon between the Club & Havant club, which was won by the latter with nine wickets to spare. – Hambledon, first innings, 66; second ditto, 31. – Havant, first innings, 91; second ditto 4.

The return match between the Havant and Hambledon Clubs took place on Thursday, August 13th on Stockheath Common which most probably would have terminated in favour of the Hambledon Club had not darkness put an end to the game, as the following will shew:- Havant 1st innings 71; 2nd innings, 29; with four wickets to go down. – Hambledon, 1st innings, 145.

The Bedhampton Cricket Club started life in 1872 as Stockheath & Bedhampton CC and played on Stockheath Common up until the early 1900s. Prior to the First World War the club moved to Scratchface Lane and played their cricket on Wigan's field which has since been built over and is now the site of Wigan Crescent.

The Cricketer's Inn/Community Hut was the headquarters of the Leigh Park Cricket Club and Stockheath Common was their home-ground.

OTHER EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH STOCKHEATH

Improvements at Havant. – We are pleased to notice that the Roads Committee of the Local Board are still making improvements by widening the thoroughfare near the railway station and the road leading from Leigh crossing to Stockheath Common. These roads have hitherto been considered to be the most dangerous in the parish being only about 16ft. wide which scarcely gave room for two carriages to pass safely. Other improvements are to be made in the town, and as they are very much needed, hopes are entertained that no delay will occur in their execution.

Hampshire Telegraph, 1 October 1887

Harvest Home. – On Saturday the employees of Mr. C. Phillips of Leigh Park Farm and Mr. H. Phillips of Middle Park Farm, celebrated Harvest Home in old fashioned style. The afternoon was devoted to cricket on Stockheath Common the team from Leigh Park Farm being victorious. In the evening the traditional dinner was held in the Cricketers' Tavern, when Mr. Richards placed an old English spread on the table. The chair was taken by Mr. C. Lee and the evening was devoted to harmony.

Hampshire Telegraph, 17 September 1892

VOLUNTEERS IN CAMP THE 3rd HANTS AT STOCKHEATH.

On Saturday the members of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion Hampshire Regiment mustered at the Drill Hall in Alfred-road, Landport, and proceeded by rail to Havant, thence marching to Stockheath Common, where they encamped. About 250 of all ranks paraded at the Drill Hall when the bugle sounded the fall-in. Colonel Wellington H. Sayer was in command, and the other officers present included Lieuts,-Colonel Mumby and Perkins, Major Holbrook, Captains Stubington, Kent, and Bone, Lieutenants the Rev. J. H. Anderson, Blagrove, S. Peters, and J. Peters, and Surgeon Knott. The departure of the regiment from the Portsmouth Town Railway Station was witnessed by hundreds of spectators. The Volunteers were attired in full marching order, with their great coats rolled over their shoulders, and looked smart and ready for any amount of rough experience under canvas. At Havant the train was met by hundreds of people who followed the citizen soldiers to their camp on Stockheath Common. The main body of the regiment had been preceded by a fatigue party, which, during the whole of Friday and Saturday, was busily employed in the erection of the tents and setting up of a cooking apparatus. Other matters of detail also received due attention at the hands of Captain and Quartermaster Curtis and his assistants, and when the men reached the Common they were agreeably surprised to find their quarters in readiness for immediate occupation. Arms were at once deposited and accoutrements thrown off, and while some looked after the kit bags, which were conveyed from Portsmouth in commissariat waggons driven by the transport detachment, others filled the bed covers with clean straw, and made arrangements for passing several nights under canvas as

comfortably as circumstances would permit. Guards were told off and sentries posted around the camp, and while tea was in course of preparation the senior non-commissioned officers were actively engaged in explaining to their subordinates the orders for immediate observance and the nature of their duties generally. At ten o'clock "lights out" was sounded, and the camp was at once placed in darkness; but, charmed with the novelty of their situation, the majority of the Volunteers did not seek repose until the small hours, and wandered about the lines or sung songs in their tents until the officer on duty went his rounds and bade them be quiet. The night was fine, but cold. A large number of the men were astir long before the reveille sounded at six o'clock, and when it became known that an early church parade had been ordered, pipe-clay and brushes were brought out, and uniforms made spick and span, ready for inspection. Breakfast was served as eight o'clock, and with appetites sharpened by the bracing air the men disposed of their liberal supply of bread, butter, and coffee with surprising quickness. Soon afterwards the majority marched away to attend divine service at the Parish Church at Havant, a few only being left behind to draw the rations and prepare dinner. The mid-day meal consisted of a pound of beef, with potatoes and bread for each man, and with the aid of Sergeant Norton of the Hampshire Regiment, who presided at the camp kitchen, the tent orderlies were enabled to set a creditable stew before their comrades on their return from church. In the afternoon the non-commissioned officers and men who were not detailed for duty were permitted to leave the camp as they pleased until after ten o'clock, and for the convenience of those who required longer leave, passes certifying that the bearer had permission to remain absent from his quarters until six o'clock next morning were issued. Crowds of people visited the camp and inspected the tents, which numbered more than a hundred and were pitched in ten lines within a few feet of each other. Large marquees, fitted as mess-rooms, were also erected for the accommodation of the large staff of commissioned officers and sergeants in attendance, and canteens well stocked with groceries and liquid refreshments were provided. The men soon learned the duties appertaining to a military camp, the weather continued fine throughout, and the ground was well kept. In many of the tents the occupants vied with each other in making their temporary abodes as picturesque as possible,

and the arms and accoutrements were kept in excellent order, although the majority of the men had never been in camp previously. The palm was perhaps taken by Lance-Corporal Parker, of C Company, who furnished his quarters with an ingeniously contrived apparatus, by means of which the men under his charge were enabled to arrange their belongings in tasteful style, and at the same time to readily place their hands upon even the smallest article they might require. Strict discipline was maintained in the camp, and the sentries were ordered to allow no man to leave the lines unless he was clean and properly dressed, and to arrest all persons found breaking in or out of camp after tattoo. The tent set apart for the reception of prisoners was on Monday occupied by a private of the Petersfield detachment, who essayed to enter the camp at noon, but was stopped by Corpl. Jerome, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the guard, who noticed that he was drunk, and on examining his pass found that he was fourteen hours late. At six o'clock in the evening the man, named George Ford, had recovered from the effects of his bout and the case was inquired into by Lieutenant-Colonel Mumby, Major Bashford, and two other officers, who, after hearing the corporal's evidence, ordered the prisoner to be summarily dismissed from the corps. Ford was accordingly marched out of the lines by an armed escort, who, on taking leave of him, warned him that if he again entered the camp he would be handed over to the police. On Tuesday Sir William Humphrey, Brigadier General of the Hampshire Volunteers, and Colonel Fife, Brigade Major, visited the camp and were present on the drill ground in Leigh Park, when the regiment practised the new form of attack. Colonel Sayer being indisposed, Lieutenant-Colonel Perkins was in command, and the various evolutions were performed in a smart and efficient manner. The men were actively employed during the whole of Wednesday morning in preparing for the annual inspection, which was conducted in the afternoon by Colonel Moorsom. At 9.30 a.m. a party from Fareham marched into the camp, ready to take part in the proceedings, and shortly afterwards a strong detachment arrived, under the command of Captain Curtis. At 11 a.m. a battalion drill was carried out, all ranks being on parade except the cooks, orderlies, and sentries. The inspection took place at Leigh Park under the most favourable circumstances. The weather was extremely fine, and the proceedings were witnessed by a large gathering of spectators. The

number of men in camp was considerably augmented during the morning, and when the regiment paraded at three o'clock there was a total muster of 849 of all ranks. Colonel W. H. Sayer being incapacitated from duty through nervous debility and prostration, the corps was commanded by Lieutenant - Colonel Mamby, and the other officers in attendance were Lieut.-Colonel Perkins, Majors Bashford and Holbrook, Captains Appleby, Kent, Stubington, Bone, Jolliffe, Mumby, Caparn, Curtis, and Lieuts. Blgrave, S. Peters, J. W. Peters, Simmonds, Anderson, Izod, Seward, Atkinson Crimshaw, and Newby. The members of the corps assembled on the Common just outside the camp, and ten strong companies having been made up, the regiment marched away to the Park, led by the bands, and accompanied by the signallers, the cyclists, transport detachment, and the ambulance company. On arrival the ranks were critically surveyed by the inspecting officer, and a series of battalion movements, including a march-past, both in quarter and open column, were gone through. Although there was a large number of recruits in the ranks, the drill was carried out in a creditable manner, the wheeling in column being especially well done. Towards the close of the parade, the battalion was drawn up in quarter-column, and Colonel Moorsom briefly addressed the men. He said that he was very pleased with the regiment, and with the manner in which they stood fair and square shoulder to shoulder. They bore a soldierly appearance, and their marching and drill were as good as their appearance. He had always had to issue a good report respecting the corps, and this year it would be as good or even better than heretofore. He also expressed satisfaction with the appearance of the camp. Colonel Moorsom then rode away, as did Sir William Humphrey, Brigadier-General of the Hampshire Volunteers, who had witnessed the inspection. Before dismissing the men, Colonel Mumby thanked all ranks for their attendance, and expressed extreme gratification at the very admirable way in which the inspection had passed off. He could not say that all the movements of the battalion were perfect, but they were highly satisfactory, considering the very few opportunities they had of drilling together in large numbers. The performance was most creditable, and he was pleased to know also that the general behaviour of the men in camp had been highly satisfactory, and that very few breaches of discipline had taken place. Later on, tea was served to the men in camp and to those who

had attended solely for the purpose of taking part in the inspection. A programme of athletic sports was then carried out, and general leave of absence was granted, guards and orderlies alone being detained at the post of duty. Not a man was improperly absent when tattoo sounded, and on Thursday every individual in the camp was early engaged in the work of returning stores and making other preparations to strike the tents. Prizes for tent striking were offered by the officers, and the ground was rapidly cleared. The smartest time was made in the lines held by B Company, and three of the awards were secured by Lance-Corporal Fletcher's team, the fourth being given to the men under Corporal Wyatt. The march from the Common to headquarters was hot and dusty, but the journey was completed in good time, and the regiment reached the Drill Hall in Alfred-road about seven p.m. Before dismissing the men Col. Mumby again complimented them upon the soldier-like manner in which they had performed their work, and while regretting that the Queen's Regulations prevented him from giving them refreshment on the way home, invited them to regale themselves at the canteen directly they ceased to remain under arms. The gallant officer also congratulated the band upon the admiration which their frequent performances had evoked in the camp. An unfortunate accident happened on Wednesday to Sergeant-Instructor Penney, who, while walking through the camp stumbled over one of the tent lines, and fell heavily to the ground. He was smoking at the time, and the stem of his pipe came in violent contact with the roof of his mouth, severely injuring the palate and nearly reaching the carotid artery. This was the only casualty that occurred during the whole time the regiment was under canvas; but Surgeon-Major Rickard and Surgeons Knott, Crouch and Hunter attended to about a dozen others, who complained of various slight ailments, and the last named gentleman was called to dress a rather severe wound sustained by a young man of Cosham, who, while watching the regiment as it passed Bedhampton on the road home, was knocked down and run over by a horse and trap. Hospital Sergeant Hall, whose tent was well fitted for surgical purposes, and the men under his charge, drilled daily with the ambulance, and carried out other duties in connection with their department, and the cyclists, under Lieutenant Izod, transport detachment, led by Staff-

Sergeant Heather, and the signallers, of whom Corporal Coish was chief, also rendered good service.

Hampshire Telegraph, 31 August 1889

The 3rd (Portsmouth) Volunteer Battalion Hants Regiment mentioned in this report included, as 'H Company', the earlier 4th Hants Rifle Volunteer Corps, also known as the Havant and Emsworth Volunteer Rifle Corps, formed in 1860 under the Act of 44 George III, cap, 54 (1803-4) and a War office Circular of 12th May 1859, from 1st April 1908 the volunteer regiments became battalions in the newly established territorial Force (TF) organized on the pattern of the regular army. The TF underwent further changes, becoming the Territorial Army in 1920.

Stockheath common was a favourite stopping point for Romany gipsies. Up until the 1960s a traditional living van could often be seen near to the clump of Hawthorn trees with the horse grazing nearby and washing laid out on the bushes to dry. Travelling showman, Jack Trickett, relates the story of a tragic event in, he thinks, the 1920s, when a wife died there. The husband, no doubt grief stricken, set the van on fire with them both inside. He says that because of this the common is regarded as being sacred ground and the reason why travellers never pitch on there.

Although situated some way away in the Great Copse Drive area the large Royal Naval Camp built during World War II was called Stockheath Camp.

Similarly the first Leigh Park school which was housed in the huts which were part of the HMS Daedelous III Naval camp in the Tarrant Gardens area was called the Stockheath Infant and Junior School.

For the past 14 years Havant Borough Council has organised a spectacular firework display on the common to celebrate Bonfire Night. This has grown in popularity over the years and that held on 5 November 2011 was the best yet with many thousands of spectators. It was probably the largest attended event that has ever taken place there.

In the early days of the Havant Recreation Ground (only in latter years has it been referred to as Havant Park) the playing of football matches was not permitted on a Sunday so the common was used instead. Havant Borough Council stopped using the common as an official pitch in about 2000 when

football regulations required that proper changing facilities had to be provided. Changing behind the hedge was no longer deemed to be acceptable, much to the relief of the residents in the flats. However some clubs still use it for practising on children have their impromptu games.

Full cricket matches were still being played there until after the last war but probably stopped when the Front Lawn Recreation Ground was opened although the odd unofficial match has been seen there. The nearness of the roads made boundary shots somewhat dangerous.

For the past 30 years funfairs and car boot sales have been held on the common and in more recent times it has been the destination of the Leigh Park carnival.

The novelist P. G. Wodehouse, who lived in Emsworth from 1904 to 1914, used many local names to create fictional characters in his Blandings Castle stories. One such character was Percy, Lord Stockheath who featured in his novel *Something Fresh*. He was a cousin of Freddie Threepwood who was very worried by Percy's highly embarrassing breach of promise case. Percy was not the brightest of young men, with an unfortunate susceptibility for pretty girls. His father suffers from gout, especially when required to pay for Percy's mistakes, during bouts of which he repairs to Dulwich. Percy has a valet named Ferris.

COMMUNITY HUT

Community facilities were few and far between so the hut at the Cricketer's provided a valuable and much used meeting place for the many organisations that were formed. It was one of Leigh Park's early community centres.



1st Leigh Park Girl Guides Company in the Cricketer's hut, 1957.



STOCKHEATH SCHOOL

In 1941 a number of temporary buildings were erected in the Fraser Road area to house people bombed out in Portsmouth. In 1943 this area was extended out towards Hazelholt Drive and Nissen huts were erected to provide a camp as an extension to the HMS Daedalus naval base. It was named Daedalus III. At the end of the war the camp was first used to house refugees who had been displaced mainly from the Baltic States after which Portsmouth City Council converted the buildings for use as temporary housing. Leigh Park's first infant and junior school, Stockheath School, was established in what was part of the camp.

Some School Day Memories of Maureen Hampson (Hewitt)

This is an account of my main memories of my time at Stockheath School from 1951 when I was seven years old until I left to go to South Street Secondary School in 1955.

The photograph is of my class at Stockheath in 1954. It was taken at Cowplain School where we performed 'The Sorcerer's Apprentice' as part of a festival of school plays from different schools in the area, all competing to win. In the end we were voted the winners, and Mr White, our teacher and his wife did all the rehearsing and teaching for us to take part. All through the play, an old record player was playing the classical music of the same name. In the photograph, I am in the front row next to the Wizard. One of the cast was Keith East who took the part of the skeleton and he, in later years, joined Portsmouth Football Club. Another girl was Caroline Scattergood and in later years she became one of the Tiller Girls at the London Palladium.

We enjoyed our time so much that some of us used to go to the cloakroom at school at lunchtimes where we would both sing and dance and entertain some of the other girl pupils in our class. I also remember dinner times for different reasons which were held in the middle hut of the school playground where we took turns as 'servers' at the end of long tables. I really looked forward to that except on one day when there was a funny smell coming from the kitchen (I didn't eat my meal that day!). There were a lot of people who came down with food poisoning soon after.

My younger sister, Janet was in the infants' school and she remembers a Miss Pennicott who was very strict, and also Sports Day with a table full of prizes and which was held in the field opposite. Janet went on to join Barncroft School when it was built and opened. I also remember us girls all playing two-ball up the walls, marbles and skipping and at playtime we often sat on in the playground next to the wall and all knitting. The boys climbed trees in the lane opposite after school.

A bad, but strong, memory I have was being slapped around the legs really hard by Mrs White during a lesson, for talking and giggling with my friend Caroline. While she was talking to the class she pulled me out to the front and was really very angry. (The teachers were allowed to do that in those days!). We had music in the Assembly Hut which was at the front part of the school. I can also remember a 'Nit Nurse' who periodically would come and take us all out, one by one, to inspect our hair and if anyone was found to have nits, they were sent to a caravan in the car park next to Havant Bridge to have them combed out with a special lotion.

My sister was bullied when she was only seven or eight years old and was being hit by a large group of children her age. This reduced her to tears, and somebody came up to me in the front playground one day asking me to go and help her in the back playground. I ran round but when I tried, the group of children who were all wearing Wellington boots, turned on me. I will never forget the terrible pain of them all kicking my legs on the shins and then running away laughing. There were also groups of older children who formed gangs to boss other kids around and asking others to join them. That will always be one of my bad memories of the school.

I lived in the brick huts near Stockheath School from 1951 until they were due to be pulled down in 1955. We all moved into the new houses in Bamcroft Way and Hooks Farm Way right next to the school. Amongst happy memories of this time were fish paste sandwiches which a girl in class had every day. She gave some to me and I loved them. Another was girls swapping beads and bits of broken jewellery which, at the time, was 'Riches Untold'! Art was my favourite subject as school and I was sent round from teacher to teacher to show them pictures of kings and queens I had drawn from the history books we had, and at Christmas we made paper decorations and cards for the classrooms. Ah, happy days!

I have lived in the area nearly all my life and I am still in touch with many people, both girls and boys, from the school, and one lasting memory I have is very clear and strong. I was walking through the playground one sunny day, nearly eleven years old and just about to leave the school for the secondary school in South Street at Havant. Nothing unusual was happening but I just stood and thought 'this moment now is so very real but from now on it just be forgotten, so I'm going to try and see if I can remember it for ever' – and I did!



Festival of School Plays at Cowplain School 1954. The Sorcerer's Apprentice.

Peter Sherwood, Keith East, Diane ?, Shirley ?, Caroline Peligreenie, Maureen Ansell, Peter Slight, Ronald Spencer?, --- Maureen Hewitt, Tina Knight, Bridget Murrey, Sue Whitehouser, Georgina ?, Shelley Fitzgerald, Pat Saunders, Margaret ?, Jant ?, Wendy Gilbert.



Donald Lake and Terry ? in the school playground circa 1959.



School Teachers about 1959. Headmaster in front centre is Mr White. Others could include Mr Gore and Mr Havard.



Sports Day on field opposite, Hooks Lane, circa 1953-54.

Back 4th Keith East, 10th Roger Spencer, 11th Peter Sherwood.

Middle 3rd Jane Prince, 4th Rosie Chant, 8th Caroline Peligreenie, 9th Sheila
?, 10th Yvonne Buist, 11th Maureen Ansell.

Front 6th Maureen Biles, 10th Sylvia Dolling, 11th Tina Knight, Wendy ?.

THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE PARISHES/MANORS OF HAVANT AMND BEDHAMPTON

The part of boundary of the Manor of Havant, which ran to the west of Stockheath, was described in the perambulation of 29th September 1820 as passing:

On the north hedge on the south side into Mr. Arthur Atherly's twelve acre, along the north hedge over the stile into Mr. James Platt's two fields, proceeding along the east hedge on the south side to Mr. White's Stockheath barn-field, turning round the south hedge to Stockheath Lane, crossing the lane leading from Stockheath on the opposite side, proceeding to the parish cottages and other cottages, taking in Mr. Samuel Sharp's meadow, over in to Stockheath again along under the west hedge on the east side to Stockheath barn croft, up to Welche's cottages under the west hedge, taking in the lower-most of Welche's houses and land up to the top

of Ryders Lane into Havant thicket, thence proceeding along under the east side of the hedge which divides Bedhampton Park from Havant Thicket...

This today would be roughly a line coming across Havant College and Trosnant Junior School, crossing Stockheath Lane at Library Gardens and running to the rear of St Francis Place and Sunnyheath and on to Riders Lane.

The perambulation was known as the 'Beating of the Bounds' as it is said that it either meant that various specific boundary markers or small boys were lightly beating in order to ensure that everyone knew the boundary of their parish.

LANES AND ROADS IN STOCKHEATH

Stockheath Road originally ran from the Petersfield Road (formerly Leigh Road) to Riders Lane but the part running past the common from the roundabout was changed to Stockheath Lane in the 1990s to avoid confusion at the roundabout.

Stockheath Lane originally ran from Riders Lane right down to West Street Bedhampton and connected with Brockampton Road.

Riders (Ryders) Lane ran from the Stockheath Lane/Road junction up in to Havant Thicket.

Stockheath Way was built in the 1950s and has no historical relevance.

The first Leigh Park doctors' surgery was established an extension built on the side of Merriemede in Riders Lane the home of Dr Lochland /Glanville As the estate grew temporary buildings were erected on the site of what is now The Mews where doctors from Havant practised. They were closed when the Havant Health centre was opened in 1984.

October House was built in 1780.

When first built one of the electoral wards of Leigh Park was called Stockheath.

The Trosnant Infant and Junior Schools stand on land which was in the area of Stockheath so they should perhaps be more properly called the Stockheath Schools rather than Trosnant. Trosnant was the name given to the large

house which was built nearby by a retired Welsh chemist. Trosnant is Welsh for *over or across the stream*.

Leigh Park's first library, Stockheath Library, was housed in a wooden hut that stood on the site of Library Gardens.

LAND SALE – 1880.



Map in the 1880 sales particulars of land to the west of Stockheath Lane.

Although the land referred to in these 1880 sales particulars was some way from Stockheath the map is interesting in that it shows Stockheath Lane extending down to West Street and the new road that had been constructed by the vendor, William Stone, to link Bedhampton Road to Stockheath Lane and thus avoid the need to wait at the two level railway crossings for trains to pass. It had been thought that Staunton had built this road.

The Library in the Hut.

The Story of Leigh Park's First Library as remembered by Alison Mason



The first Leigh Park library in Stockheath Lane. *Geoff Salter.*

Introduction

Until the early 1950s Hampshire County Library was run by the County Education Department and could be considered the Cinderella Department of the County Council, even the County Librarian, Mr Sherry, was not a chartered librarian. There were few full-time libraries in the county and the nearest ones to Havant were those within the Portsmouth City boundary, some others were independent of the County Council, as in Winchester.

Small part-time libraries had been set up in village halls and other buildings that could be rented. Havant's library was in the Town Hall, Bedhampton's in Bedhampton Hut, (now the Social Hall) near the railway station, Emsworth's was in the Black Dog public house and Hayling Island's in the old British Legion Hall.

Outside opening hours, which were limited to around 10 hours per week, the books, which were arranged on shelves along the walls, were protected by shuttering which had to be locked into place to protect them from prying fingers.

The nearest libraries to Leigh Park were Bedhampton and Havant, and as the new town's population grew land was searched for that would be suitable to site a new library for the three communities.. Eventually a site was found in Stockheath Lane. Clearly no thought was given to its proximity to shops and other facilities, but the library building was started in the Spring of 1957, a date set for its opening, and staff recruited.

The Early Days

Shortly before nine o'clock on Monday 2nd September 1957 Valerie Hewitt, Enid Marshman, Geoffrey Salter and Alison Waters met for the first time outside the new library building in Stockheath Lane, Leigh Park. A few minutes later the newly appointed librarian Mr Frank Baguley arrived with the key and after introductions had been made everyone entered the building.

The building was a long wooden hut with windows set just below the roof level, although the far end where the children's section was shelved, had lower windows that could be removed in an emergency. Except for the counter and shelving the library was completely bare, not a book to be found, not even a telephone.

The staff were all young. Library Assistants, Alison, Enid and Geoffrey were all school-leavers, aged about 17 or 18 years old. Valerie Hewitt, the part-time clerical assistant was an older lady, at least 36 years old (always addressed as Mrs Hewitt) and Frank Baguley, always addressed as Mr Baguley, was about 28 years old. It is impossible, in this highly technical 21st century, to imagine such a young, inexperienced team being appointed.

What a hectic five weeks were to follow.

Within the next few hours furniture and book stock began to arrive, but not the all-important kettle or crockery. Plastic cups and a bottle of squash were



Opening of Leigh Park's new library, 7 October 1957. Alan Lubbock, Chairman of Hampshire County Council. Librarian Frank Bagulty, talking as usual, holding the key, sadly died aged 49 in 1980, a wonderful sense of humour and a way with words and a super boss. Councillor Arthur Kille. Councillor Marjorie Perraton, for once listening and not talking.



View from the entrance.

purchased at Park Parade shopping area, which sufficed for the first couple of days.

Over the next couple of weeks 10,000 books arrived which all had to be sorted before putting onto the shelves. Tables were set out end-to-end down the length of the library to help sort the books into either alphabetical or classified order. Catalogue cards, fortunately were included with each book, were filed in the new catalogue drawers, and the rudiments of the Dewey Classification Scheme were learned.

In preparation for the opening of the library Mr Baguley set up role play, where staff took it in turns at pretending to be readers asking for specific titles or subjects ,or acted being awkward readers.

A week or so before opening prospective readers were invited to complete application forms and their tickets were then ready for collection. Adults could have two tickets, one which was General and could be used for fiction or non-fiction, and one to be used for non-fiction only. Children from five years of age were allowed the same, and children under five were allowed one ticket (parent/guardian).

The opening ceremony was carried out by the County Chairman, Mr Lubbock, in nearby Trosnant School's assembly hall in the afternoon of 9th October, and the key to the library handed over to Mr Baguley at the entrance to the library.

The doors were opened to the public at around 4.00pm, and oh, what a hectic afternoon and evening followed, made even more so, because Enid and Geoff had both been struck down with Asian flu, which was rife at the time. Staff were 'borrowed' from Havant's part-time library and Valerie Hewitt worked full-time for a few days.

Needless to say, the shelves were soon denuded of stock with large areas of emptiness and pristine ranges of new books were soon in disarray. What a shame that polythene covers hadn't been introduced then to preserve the colourful book jackets. However, stock was soon replenished from the book store at County Library Headquarters in Winchester.

Reader registration was a nightmare for weeks. Forms and tickets were taken home at night and family members helped to write them up. Some mistakes were made in the initial rush, but most were eventually resolved.

Every morning all stock had to be straightened and sorted thoroughly, especially the children's section which often looked as though a bomb had hit it after the children from Trosnant School next door had been in.

A few weeks after the opening a report in the *Evening News* had the headline 'Library Where Noise is Welcome', but what Frank Baguley had meant when being interviewed was, if you wanted the local population to use the facility, especially, the children, then some noise had to be tolerated.

The staff team was a very happy one, although staff relations were very formal in those days. Alison, Geoff and Enid were always on Christian name level, but the librarian was addressed as Mr Baguley and Valerie Hewitt was always Mrs Hewitt, although, in reverse, they called the assistants by their Christian names.

The Readers

The population of Leigh Park was very mixed, from all walks of life, and other readers travelled longer distances. There were doctors, service personnel, teachers, housewives, retired residents, in fact, anyone who wanted a library that was open six days a week, from 10-7 on weekdays, and 10-5 on Saturdays. This variety made the work interesting.

The readers were also very kind. At Christmas enough gifts of chocolates and biscuits were given to last until Easter, and a retired Navy Commander would bring in a bottle of sherry. This was only drunk in small quantities. A lady from Rowlands Castle, who had an orchard, would bring in buckets of daffodils in the spring and apples in the autumn.

The library was well-used by the local schools. Trosnant infant and junior schools next door used the library almost as an extension of the school, and it was not unusual for a teacher to rush in, desperate for information to help his or her pupils, or as happened before several sports days, ideas for obstacle courses.

Classes from schools visited the library with teachers to be taught how to use it, and what sort of books could be found in it. Needless to say, staff had to be prepared to answer a wide assortment of questions.

Broomfield School (now Park School) under the headship of Miss Joan Gregory, had a library club, and volunteer pupils came in on a rota after school and helped library staff with counter work and shelving.

The Development of the Library and the County Library Service

In 1957 most of Hampshire's libraries were part-time and situated in hired premises like village halls where the books had to be protected by shuttering when the library was closed. There was no co-operation between them as all were completely dependent on the County Library Headquarters in Winchester. For example, a request for a book would be posted to Winchester for catalogue checking and if located somewhere in Hampshire, that request would then be posted to the library which held the book, from where the book would be posted to the library that had originally requested it.

In 1959 a new County Librarian, Mr Lawson, and Assistant County Librarian, Mr Geoff Smith, were appointed. Geoff Smith was a very go-ahead librarian from Hertfordshire, and it was under his guidance and the enthusiasm of Frank Baguley that Havant area libraries became a working partnership. An inter-library loans system was set up with requested book deliveries and stock movement between Leigh Park, the part-time libraries and Headquarters being done by Emsworth removal company, Newells, on a twice a week rota system.

Gradually, all of Hampshire's libraries were organised into areas, and investment made into its own vehicles for the delivery service.

It was also in the summer of 1959 that the library eventually had a telephone! Up till then it wasn't unusual for a staff member to walk to the phone box in Blendworth Crescent to phone Portsmouth Reference Library if an important query couldn't be answered using Leigh Park's basic reference stock.

The Library's Neighbours

Stockheath Lane in the late 1950s was still a country lane, bounded on one side by the Hermitage Stream, and on the other, next to the library was Trosnant, a smallholding/The site where the library was situated was of a reasonable size and occasionally had donkeys tethered which helped to keep the grass growth down. This of course encouraged rabbits to burrow and invade Trosnant's acreage, much to the annoyance of its owners, who were sometimes seen sending over their dogs. There were times though, when the library almost disappeared within the tall grasses, and there was a fine crop of stinging nettles outside the staffroom window, a result of the tea pot being emptied there (the nearest sinks were at the front of the library).

There were still fields where Havant Grammar School, now Havant College, would be built, with a public footpath crossing them between Stockheath Lane and the Petersfield Road roundabout. The other neighbours were Trosnant Infants and Junior Schools, which have already been mentioned.

The 1960s

The Library Service continued to develop in South East Hampshire, and by 1961 Leigh Park was the hub that supported the libraries in the Havant area, and as far north as Liphook and Petersfield. Leigh Park staff regularly travelled to these libraries for several years to train staff to use a uniform system and help to use stock more efficiently by circulating between libraries and therefore not having to purchase so many copies of popular authors.

Although much of the book stock was purchased through Headquarters' centralised purchasing system, Leigh Park did have its own fund which enabled it to support local bookshops, especially the Pelham Bookshop in West Street, Havant owned by Miss Irene Babbage, and the library was fortunate to be able to have popular titles almost on the day of publication. Not long before the telephone was added to the building Miss Babbage arrived one day with Nevil Shute's latest book, *On the Beach* and she said what a shame there was no way she could contact us, as she had had him in her shop signing the new book and staff could have gone to meet him.

By the mid-1960s a new library had been built at Hayling Island and Frank Baguley, who had been promoted to a new position of District Librarian,

moved, with the District Admin Officer to Hayling where there was more room.

The Library in the Hut eventually closed in 1970 when a large shop premises was taken over in Leigh Park's Greywell Precinct, although the hut continued to be used by the library service until 1978, firstly as a store and finally for the District Librarian's office and the staff who dealt with the area's new stock and stock control.

STOCKHEATH ROYAL NAVAL CAMP



Although some distance from Stockheath the naval camp that was built in the Great Copse Drive area was named Stockheath Camp. *Alf Harris.*

In his book *The Naval Camps of Bedhampton Havant and Leigh Park* Bob Hind wrote:

... it is believed to have been opened in early 1941. At any one time there could be 3,000 to 4,000 men accommodated at the camp. Although it started as an overflow camp, as the war became more intense and more and more shipping was lost, it also became a survivors' camp.

Men saved from the sea, after having their ships sunk beneath them, were brought to the quiet backwater of Stockheath to recuperate for a short

while and be issued with new kit and ID cards, etc. Some arrived in the camp in the most dreadful state, still covered in oil and blistered and had to be well looked after by the camp doctors and medics. In addition to the many matelots who stayed there, some for a few days and others for months, there were about 70 Wrens based there some for the duration of their service.

While the camp was open the Hants and Sussex Bus Company ran a service to there from Havant station with stops in Stockheath Lane and the Cricketers.



During WW II Basil William's Hants and Sussex buses operated from the railway station to the Stockheath naval camp, a run of 11 minutes. A Dennis Lance' with a Park Royal body waits for its next run. *AFM collection.*

My Time in the in the Royal Navy at Stockheath Naval Camp

Baden Beall Singleton

I joined a class of thirty-five more recruits at New Barracks in Gosport in Hampshire on the 7th September 1942. This was an ex-Marine barracks in St. Matthew's Square, Those barracks are no longer there, they are just another victim of the war, and the site is now a housing estate. In these barracks a three-badge leading seaman instructor kicked us into shape. He gave us intensive training on the parade ground, how to use and drill with a rifle and a crash course in naval discipline and seamanship. Here we were taught that one never walked on the parade ground, unless instructed to do so, even when off duty. A short cut to the canteen was across the parade ground, I think we all tried to walk it at some time but always a voice came out of nowhere, That Man! We then lifted our arms to the waist and doubled, (a term for running).

When I had finished my training I was drafted to Stockheath Camp at Havant as a standing guard. Several of us were sent there because we were under the age to go to sea so were used as Defence guards for the camp. Our classification was Land Defence Duties (L.D.D's). I was standing guard at that camp until I was eighteen. For some reason while I was there I lost touch with Betty, perhaps because I was a terrible letter writer or more likely because I had met Sylvia Smith who lived in Havant with her parents. We met on a blind date arranged by a mate of mine, he was not so lucky but Sylvia and I got on famously from that first night. We enjoyed each other's company, as friends, for the six-months I was based at the camp. We did nothing spectacular because Havant was not the liveliest of places, day or night. The cinema or a pub was about the only entertainment in town. I did very little drinking at that time so we went for a lot of walks and talked a lot.

Standing guard at Stockheath Camp was a monotonous job. We had three watches, doing twenty-four hours on duty, twenty-four hours on stand-by and twenty-four hours off. On duty we did four hours on watch and four hours off. The guard positions were two posts on the road leading up to a farm, number one was one on the main gate and number two was at the furthestmost perimeter of the camp. Number three post was at the other side of the camp, making the security in the shape of a diamond. Number two post

was a very lonely place during the middle watch, not even the P.O. or Leading hand in charge of the watch came up there to check on us. A few yards from the post across the lane was a hayrick, this is where I very often spent that middle watch, not sleeping, just relaxing in the comfort of the hay. If someone was moving about I could see or hear them. The watch I liked best at this post was 0400hrs to 0800hrs, it was good to watch the dawn come up and when the cookhouse about 0630hrs I would wander down from that top of lane post to get a cup of tea. I suppose this would be regarded as deserting my post but I didn't think like that, the cup of tea was a necessity at that time of morning. On that same post nearest the farm on the 2000hrs to 2400hrs one had to keep especially alert for the people returning to the farm because sometimes they would not respond to the challenge until we rattled the bolt of the rifle. Those people did realize that if they did not answer the challenges we would fire, nobody, did let it go that far. On the main gate we had a sentry box. I used this post to write my letters, one eye on the paper the other on the road. When all was quiet at night I occasionally sat on my tin hat and gas mask. The officer of the watch caught me at this one evening. He asked me what the hell I was doing; I told him I had a stomach ache. He then called out the Petty officer in charge of the watch and had me relieved. The P.O. knew the truth and put me back on watch after twenty minutes had elapsed but not before he had given me a good roasting. He did not like having his peaceful evening disturbed. As I said this was a monotonous job and we did anything to break up those four hours. While I was there the whole of the Portsmouth area did some invasion manoeuvres. Stockheath camp made up a platoon including the LDD's that were not on duty. I was amongst them, not terribly keen because I had just come off watch. One thing that stands out in my memory of that day was the fact that we had to pass through somebody's apple orchard, when the last rating had reached the other side there was not an apple left on any of the trees. I suppose now we can all excuse ourselves because we were all very young and very bored. Our platoon was eliminated half way through the day so we spent the rest of the manoeuvre sitting around on the hill below the fort wishing we had something to eat. I don't know how many miles we walked that day but we arrived back at the camp very tired and hungry.

During one of our off duty periods the group I was with volunteered to go to Emsworth to help a farmer with his haymaking. We had a good day, the

farmer produced sandwiches and some beer for our lunch. We finished during the evening when the heat of the sun had gone and as we were able to see the sea from the field we decided to go for a swim to get rid of the dust. When we arrived at what should have been the water's edge there was none, the tide was out. Some of us set out across, mud but very soon common sense prevailed, it took us quite a while to remove the mud without the use of water. Sometimes when we were on standby duty we had to go to Emsworth as Naval street patrol. This was not a favourite duty because the Polish soldiers were in that area and they could cut up a bit rough at times. We never did have any disturbances but the thought was always there.

The Stockheath Pest House or House of Pestilence

A Pest House or House of Pestilence was usually located in an isolated position where victims of infectious diseases such as smallpox, cholera and scarlet fever were quarantined.

During his researches of the Havant Union Workhouse, Robert West found the following entries in the minute book:

1858 – Havant Union Board of Guardians rent a cottage at Stockheath "for the reception of smallpox and other patients" together with some adjoining land: Tithe map Nos. 305, 306, 308, 309.

1868 – Cottage and land purchased by Guardians. Surplus land sold to William Stone.

1871 – Pest House "to be enlarged".

1876 – (April) A committee is formed "to inspect the Pest House at Stockheath and report on the state of the building".

(June) Committee recommend its sale "and the erection of a fever hospital north of the workhouse".

(July) 1 acre 28 perches of land belonging to William Jacobs purchased for hospital site.

1877 – (March 3rd) Advertisement in *Hampshire Telegraph* for auction of cottages and land at Stockheath.

1880 – (Dec) New Fever Hospital "furnished and ready for the reception of patients".

Architect: Alfred Hudson of Southsea. Builders: Staples & Rogers. Cost: £921 (Tender estimate).

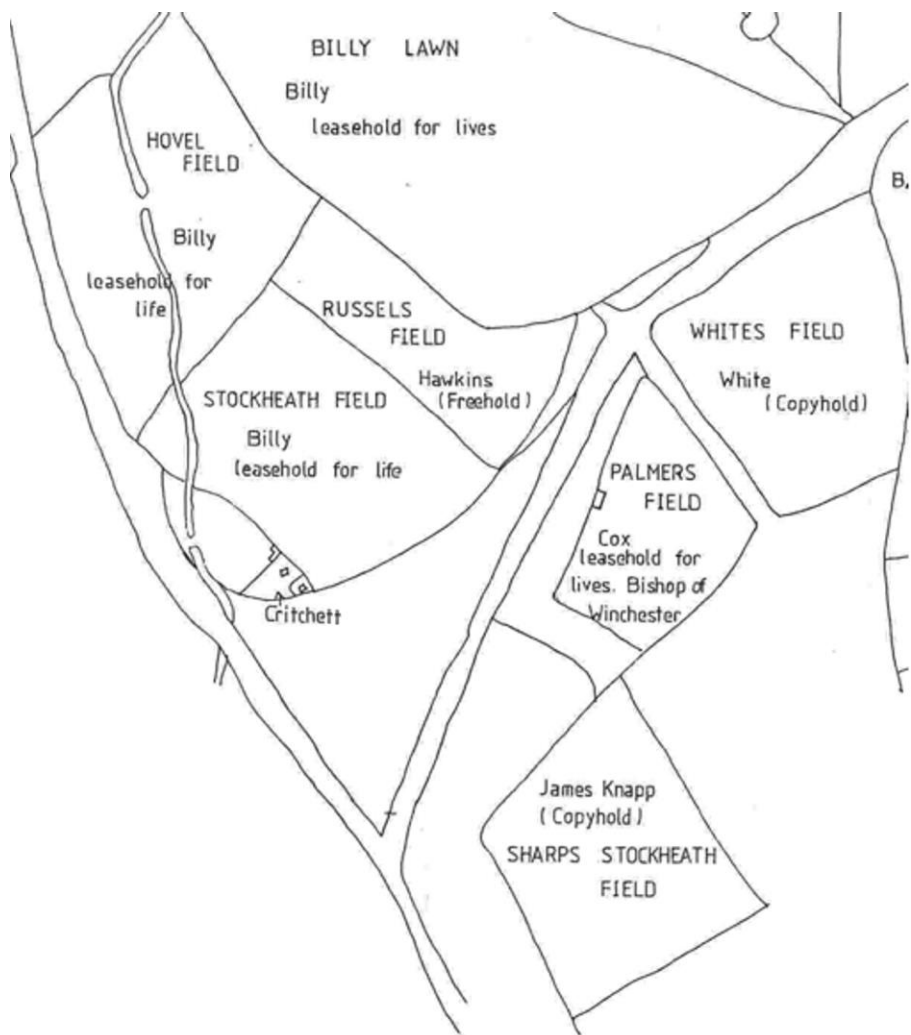
Alf Peters, Carter, Stockheath



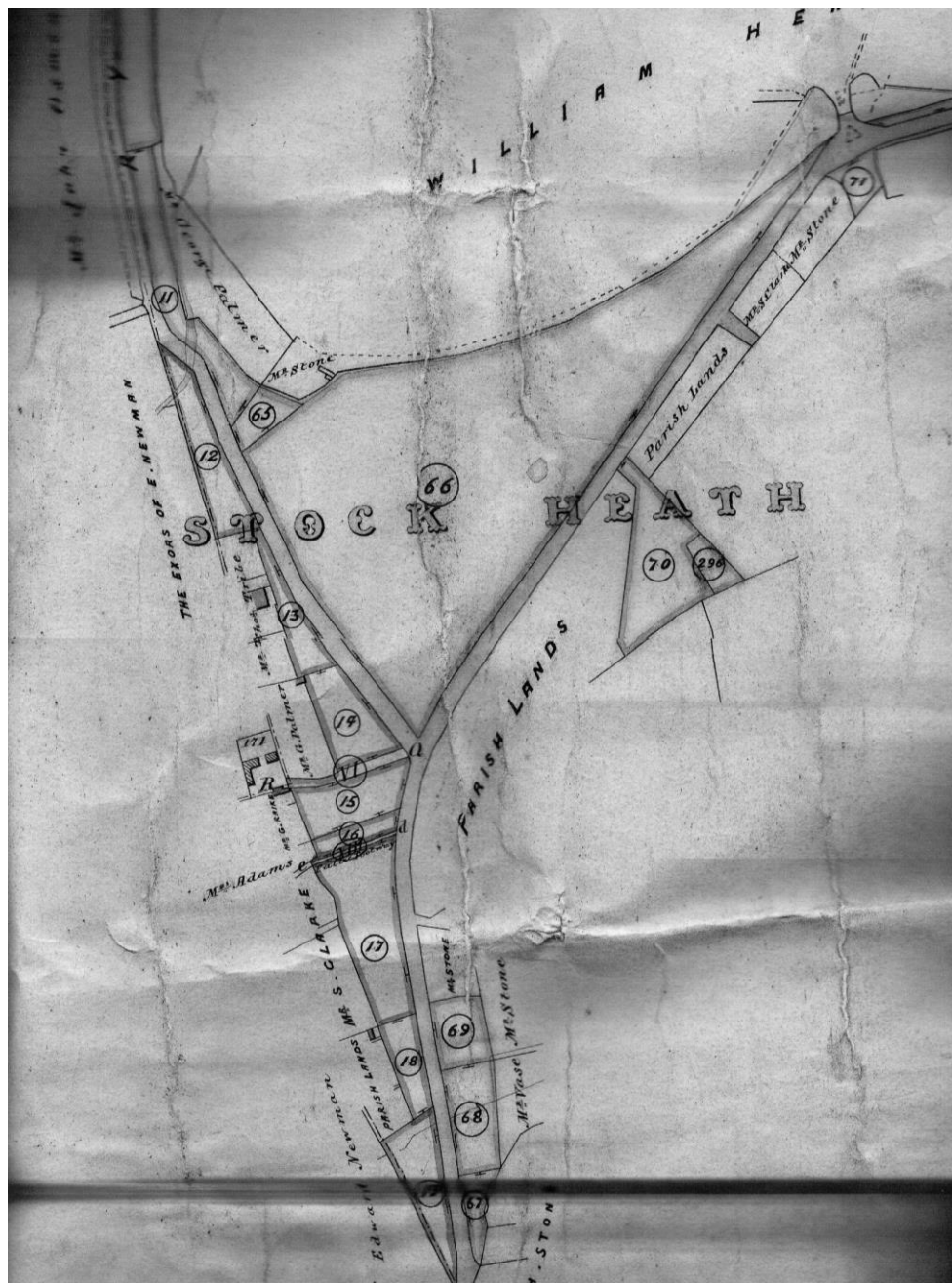
A descendant wrote:

The photograph was taken in 1898 outside their home in Stockheath Lane, Clematis Cottages on the right. The houses to the left are called Primrose Cottages and were both built in 1886. Uncle Mac was the only one to have been born in the cottage. The family also lived in a house on the opposite side of the road called Walnut Cottage; it is now called Toad Hall. Great Uncle David died there at the age of two as the result of a fire that he caused with a lighted candle. Your Grandad and my mother were born at Leigh Cottages on the Petersfield Road.

In the picture from left to right: great great Grandfather Alfred Peters born 1863 at Trafalgar Road, Horsham, Sussex, Great uncle Joe in his arms. Great great Grandmother Peters, Alfred's mother also from Horsham, my mother in her arms, Maggy May, niece. Great Grandmother, Sarah Peters, nee Davies, with Great uncle Harold in her arms. She came from Llandeilo, Black Mount, Carmarthenshire, Wales. Standing is great Aunt Min.



Map of circa 1792/1800 showing Stockheath Common.



Map of the 1870 Inclosure Award. Stockheath Common.

Leigh Park Memory Boxes

Borrow a Box and discover the past and present in Leigh Park.

Making Space has four Memory Boxes that can be borrowed.

These are filled with a range of heritage materials to inspire your group or school. Each box contains photographs, objects to handle and view and a list of suggested activities to engage users in exploring what Leigh Park means to them.

You and your group can explore shared histories and stories.

Users can bring in their own photographs and objects, be creative and investigate past and present life in Leigh Park.



From 2011 - 2014 Making Space ran a project called On The Street Where We Live. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and involved over 1000 local people. The boxes were made by artist Jon Lockhart and were inspired by his work in Leigh Park where local people told stories, gave photographs and memorabilia.



To borrow a box:

Just contact Making Space on 023 9247 2491 or email admin@makingspace.org. Boxes can be borrowed for one day or more and the borrower needs to collect and return the box to Making Space.



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Community
Chest

To find out more please visit:

makingspace.org/leigh-park-memory-boxes/

Making Space, 2 Bishopstoke Road, Leigh Park, Havant, Hants, PO9 5BN
Registered Company Info 04482576 | Registered Charity Number 1108387

Park Community Enterprises

Park Community Enterprises is a not for profit company that has been setup by four senior members of staff at Park Community School to enable students to gain training, work experience and key employability skills. This has been achieved by the setting up of a number of small commercial businesses at which students take part in all of the stages of running a small business, the first of these is Park Design and Print. Park Design and Print have a range of modern digital printing equipment and are able to produce, to a commercial standard, a full range of printed and personalised promotional items.

023 9248 9840 PDP@pcs.hants.sch.uk

Printing: Business Stationery, Flyers, Brochures, Booklets, Postcards, Menus, Posters, Banners, Pop Up Displays, Pads, NCR Pads.

Personalised Items: Greetings Cards, Mugs, Moneyboxes, Keyrings, Badges, Fridge Magnets, Canvas Prints, T-Shirts.

Signage and Graphics: Internal and External Signage, Vehicle Graphics and Wraps, together with a full design service.



educating
and inspiring
young people

Established to give young people real life work experience